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DRVN Health Service Face to War Tasks

by Dr. PHAM NGOC THACH

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Quang Nam province
PLAF men in action

ON SAIGON FRONT

PLAF HOLD THE INITIATIVE IN SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS

"New Thinking" in Saigon or a New Bluff

AMBASSADOR E. BUN-KER met Nguyen Van Thieu for the first time last week in Washington. After conferring with his envoy, U.S. President Nixon declared that "private talks" would be the only way to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue. Almost at the same moment, in Saigon Nguyen Van Thieu stated that his administration was ready to enter into formal negotiations with South Viet Nam NFL. The Thieu statement received a warm welcome from the State Department's spokesman.

So, the whole show was carefully prepared and went off smoothly.

But, those who have been concerned with the developments in the Paris Conference are wondering what will be the subject of "private talks" and

what will be their results? Some people may think there is something new on the American side which could end the present deadlock of the Paris negotiations. Some others may consider that Mr. Nixon has succeeded in gaining time by delaying the decision he is not in a position to define clearly a concrete policy regarding Viet Nam. Mistrust in the good faith of both Thieu and Nixon is prevalent. And not without reason.

WHEN negotiations are agreed upon between parties concerned the form of negotiations is important, but not to the extent of becoming a decisive factor in the outcome. However, "private talks" suggested by Nguyen Van Thieu are more productive than the present

open parley, if Washington persists in its aggressive policy in South Viet Nam.

Nixon affirmed that his administration was resolved to secure an honorable peace in Viet Nam. Said Mr. Rogers before the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee March 12: "However, it is obvious to everyone that the White House's Viet Nam policy remains ambiguous."

On the other hand, what is left in no doubt is a set of facts which are aggravating the situation. In South Viet Nam mention should be made of the maintenance of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique in spite of the strength of large numbers of the urban people on their removal at the earliest date; bombings,

OPERATION ATLAS WEDGE AT DAU TIENG: 2,000 GIs Put Out of Action, 210 Vehicles, 30 Cannons, 12 Choppers Destroyed.

TAY NINH REGION: 700 Enemy Casualties in 11 Days.

XUAN LOC SECTOR: 8 Puppet Companies Wiped Out.

4,200 Enemy Soldiers Knocked Out South and South-East of DA NANG and in the Western HIGH PLATEAUX in Two Weeks.

North Viet Nam

Two U.S. pilotless planes downed over Haiphong on March 31 and April 3, 1969.

Total loss of U.S. aircraft since August 5, 1964:

3,275

(Continued page 2)

WHITHER "ACCELERATED PACIFICATION"?

PACIFICATION "MANU MILITARY"

ACCORDING to the American press, since late 1968, the Americans and the Saigon puppets have been trying to implement programme called "accelerated pacification". As revealed by Jacques Foisier in an article in the *Los Angeles Times* quoted by *USIS* on Jan. 3 this year, the date chosen for its launching was Nov. 1, 1968.

The objectives contemplated by the enemy command as indicated by many statements from American and puppet responsible officials and some leak-outs in the Western press can be summarized in the following points:

Militarily. "Accelerated pacification" is to be up the so-called "chain-of-command" strategy designed to check attacks and popular uprisings in cities and key strategic areas. It has also a long-term objective, help the aggressors tap the man-power and material resources of these areas to pursue their aggression.

Politically, as Washington feels a political settlement of the war inevitable, "accelerated pacification" will be used to do the trick. If only formal, the puppet administration on as many South Viet Nam population centres as possible in order to strengthen its political hand and be able to produce a favourable war map at the Conference which was to open in Paris, following the unconditional cessation of U.S. raids on the DRVN. The objective set for the first 3 months of the campaign would be to move from "pacify" to "root out" (Jan.-6 to 6), to "pacify" (Jan. 6 to 26), to "root out" (26 to 31) hamlets. This is what the Western press terms as "flagrant operation".

The means resorted to have nothing in common with a "pacific" measure as those who have set on foot this programme may think it sound like by naming it "pacification". It is really military operation up to the maximum operations or operations of retribution of civilians in areas supposedly susceptible of being controlled, militarily, by U.S.-puppet forces. To make people "pacified" the latter use terrorism, murder, arrests and torture in interrogation of "suspects". After having "rooted out" the "VC political structure" in this way, the forces involved will proceed to the establishment of the U.S.-puppet pacification apparatus, and, if required by circumstances, put on it an attractive face with measures called economic aid.

To prepare the ground for "accelerated pacification" campaigns, operations "Phoenix" have been mounted. These consist in dispatching into areas out of US-puppet control commandos, secret agents and hitmen to assassinate leaders and to identify local militants and patriotic organizations, assassinate cadres and draw up "black lists" in order to facilitate the ultimate destruction of the NFL infrastructure.

The theatre chosen for these "accelerated pacification" operations is the areas surrounding main cities and bases or adjoining key communication lines vital for the US-puppets.

A FUTILE SHOW-OFF MOVE

So, "accelerated pacification" appeared as a "show-off" move decided on in haste while the US-puppets were driven into the depths of their military, while the puppet regime was giving way everywhere (1) and while it was increasingly evident that they had later to US withdraw to go to the former table. It turned out to be part of the US effort to revamp the tottering puppet regime and "Vietnamise" the war as to maintain Washington's neo-colonial hegemony in the Southern part of our country.

However, after more than 4 months, it was launched "accelerated pacification" has brought but little disappointment to the US-puppets.

One of the first large-scale operations of this kind was staged in mid-January, 1969, under the code-name of "Saigon", taken from the centre of Da Nang, "the biggest US base in Southeast Asia". On this occasion, the regional commandos gathered in Da Nang after 24 days of fighting, beat off 7,000 troops comprising GIs, South Korean mercenaries and soldiers of the puppet army, inflicting heavy losses. Three thousand causalities, some 20 aircraft brought down and several dozen military vehicles destroyed.

Since then, other actions against areas outlying Saigon, especially in the provinces of An Giang, Ben Tre, Nghe, and against villages of fishermen and peasants in the Ba Lang An peninsula southeast of the US-Chau Lai base, etc... have proved as disastrous as the previous one.

Meanwhile, more than any figure of the enemy losses, however high, the simultaneous attacks launched by the PLAF on the night of Feb. 22 last, although still limited without any sign of the "out of summer" spelled out in a masterly manner the dismal failure of this new US tactic. As a matter of fact, it would have been impossible for the NFL to mount such a well-coordinated series of offensives against 400 different targets in almost all provinces of South Viet Nam if the "accelerated pacification" campaign had yielded some kind of result.

INCURABLE ORIGINAL DEFECT

THIS obvious bankruptcy of the American strategists in South Viet Nam come as no surprise to any observer well conversant with developments in Viet Nam.

Following the famous Tet offensives and the continual and powerful onslaught of the South Viet

Nam armed forces and people, following the disastrous defeat of the war of destruction against the DRVN with the unconditional cessation of U.S. raids on North Viet Nam, the aggressor's will of the Yankee imperialists was seriously shaken, while the puppet regime was in dire straits for fear that their bones would let them down again "change horses in mid-stream". Defection spread among the satellite and puppet forces and was accelerated by the growing rate of desertions, mutinies and rebellions. The "pacification" teams had not been spared by this general crisis. Their strength was gradually reduced due to their attacks especially in 1968. To fill the gap in their ranks, the enemy has no other resources than a recourse either to the service of members of all types or to the forced enrolment of public servants and students, which course of action deprives the teams of the last shreds of their credit. Furthermore, local tyrants with whom rests most of the effectiveness of the "accelerated pacification" operation have been mostly made away with, neutralized or forced into exile to escape the punishment of the people. This shows a sharp contradiction between the policies of very pernicious and capricious, and the limits of the enemy. In such conditions it is futile to try to "root out" the NFL, when the influence of the latter circle for lack of any military shield for "pacification", it is now facing a shield for its military set-up.

Washington has acknowledged that "pacification" must be conducted by the puppet troops only and that the participation of GIs in this undertaking will harm the results. Yet, considering its aid and plight, the puppet army is absolutely incapable of fulfilling any task of the kind of "house mother" assumed by it. Americans. That is why the burden again falls on US troops. US *Time* magazine disclosed on Dec. 20, 1968 that nearly a half of the operations conducted by GIs were aimed at support to the "accelerated pacification" programme. In fact, all the U.S. divisions have been thrown into the undertaking and even the First Air Cavalry which forms the mobile reserve has been spread thin to this effect on a rook front Northeast of Saigon.

FROM POLITE SMILE TO SNIGGEK

ANOTHER factor of prime importance on which depends the success or insuccess of "accelerated pacification" is the PLAF reaction. In late 60's, North Viet Nam had no bodies about it. It quoted a U.S. district adviser in South Viet Nam as revealing that "2 of his newly secured hamlets have already been de-securer by the PLAF and concluded, All is taken in a couple of VC and ten minutes, and you've lost what may represent weeks of work."

Already before the post-Tet attack, the enemy command had to extend 100% the time allotted for

the pacification of the first 1,200 hamlets fixed at the beginning. One can easily imagine what has come of this objective now, after Feb. 23.

The propaganda services of Saigon and Washington, however have not ceased bragging about the "successes" obtained in this field. Nevertheless, in a most recent article (Mar., 1969) *Newsweek* commented that to many old Viet Nam hands, this all seems just a little too good to be true". The same magazine added that no sign of military weakness had been seen on the part of the NFL and that in these conditions, the "accelerated pacification" programme always remained illusory.

And here is a recent AFP dispatch: "When told of (puppet) Premier Tran Van Huong's recent announcement that the (puppet) administration's intention was to pacify the country 100 per cent in 1969, some officers sniggered".

Whither this new "accelerated pacification" programme? A U.S. officer was reported by *Newsweek* to have foreseen for the US puppet scheme the following alternative (Mar. 3, 1969): this program is a bombshell. It is either going to be an amazing success or a dismal failure". Everything induces us to predict, unfailingly, that it is the second eventuality that is coming to pass.

(1) The Japanese news agency Kyodo reported on Nov. 4, 1968 that it was felt in Saigon that the collapse of the Thieu regime was a matter of time.

(2) To give an idea of the size of the force needed to conduct an "accelerated pacification" operation, we again quote the following figures from the *Western press*: 9,000 men, in a 2-week operation in the Co Mai peninsula in the Southern sector of the country, 8,000 in the operation against 3 villages of Ia Lang An, etc...

HERE I am back again at SV (Rach Gia) after a long absence.

The region has been repeatedly bombarded by U.S. aircraft and artillery. The aggressors are bent on suppressing the green of life and the ring of laughter. They want to cover the whole area with a pall of mourning. But life has got the better of them; it is surging forward...

Lost in thought, I didn't notice that the boat had entered the canal. A familiar voice coming from the bank woke me up: it was old Mrs Muoi's. Holding a lamp with one hand, she pulled me ashore with the other. A crowd was walking along the embankment, talking and laughing. Most of the people were

me at the gate to go to evening class.

Old Muoi is turned 60. Yet he is an activist in the educational drive in the region.

I talked to him about the recent victories won by our armed forces and people in their winter-spring campaign. After taking a sip of tea, he gave a joyous laugh. "Well," he said "as far as I look after education in this hamlet. You remember, don't you, how things were? The children did nothing but romp and quarrel, so, together with a few friends, I set about building a school. Oh, just a bamboo hut, but quite roomy. Then we managed to find a teacher. At first only a few kids came; now there are 36 of them. The hamlet people

nowadays are busy, but the children look after the children when his wife goes to class, and vice versa. And the hairs, who live across the channel: she is with child, but never uses a chair; she gets encouragement from her husband, too. Muoi's wife helps the women with their study; yet she has a numerous family and is now pregnant..."

His eyes became misty as he evoked the past, but his voice was firm: "Don't you remember, Sau? When the hamlet was occupied by the enemy, people were threatened with arrest and massacre at every turn. How could they think about getting an education. Besides, there was no school."

Life in the liberated areas of South Viet Nam

ALL THE HAMLET GO TO SCHOOL

women.

"Say, Mum, where are they going?"

"I asked, "They are in very high spirits, aren't they?" Mrs Muoi smiled and removed a lock of white hair which had fallen on her eye.

"They are going to school," she said. "They all live in this hamlet: Mrs Tu, Mrs Sau, Hui's wife, Ut Dai's wife... There won't soon be any youth to enlist in the liberation forces: among the seven young people joining the armed forces several were from the school itself. The teacher has been elected an outstanding activist in the district educational movement."

The light flickered with each of her steps. Her shadow sprawled on the path. Leaves rustled in the breeze. When we came to her house, she left

Songs came from a neighbour's radio set. I left Old Muoi to pay a visit to the evening class.

Standing before the blackboard and holding her lamp in one hand, Mrs Muoi was pointing a stick at the letters written on it. The lamp flickered with every gust of breeze. Mrs Tu was reading aloud. After finishing a sentence, she drew a long breath, smiled and resumed her reading. The entire class were following her attentively. Whenever she made a mistake, the "teacher" corrected it.

"Is that the only school in the hamlet?" I asked.

"There is another one. Uncle Hui teaches there, both day-school and evening classes. So we have two schools for a total of thirty households! Almost all the kids go to class. So do most of the grown-ups."

"I think your evening classes are thriving! I just saw many women going to class in high spirits."

"Yes, we have seven classes grouping 47 people. Many have learnt to read and write. They are quite eager to learn. Take for instance the

F. N.
South Viet Nam



A drug-producing workshop in South Viet Nam liberated areas

Books on South Viet Nam

THE IVORY COMB

(Collection of short stories by several South Vietnamese writers)

Second edition

Graphic illustration of an incident truth: the South Vietnamese people have managed to fight back the American aggressors and the National Front for Liberation will surely win.
Gia Phong Editions, South Viet Nam 1969
General distributor: XUNHASABA
32, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi
Democratic Republic of Viet Nam



Street demonstration by Tokyoans on March 16, 1969 for an end to the Viet Nam war, Okinawa's return to Japan and cancellation of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

Japanese People Support Viet Nam

ARM support for the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation was voiced at meetings and demonstrations held by Japanese students and members of other segments of the Japanese people on March 16 (National Day of United Action) in 70 cities in 40 provinces to promote the setting up of the united front against the U.S. and the Sato reactionary authorities.

At a 150,000-strong meeting called by the Japanese Communist Party in Tokyo, Saito Nosaka, chairman of its Central Committee, warmly hailed the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. for national salvation and denounced the Sato reactionary authorities' collusion with the U.S. imperialists in the war of aggression in Viet Nam.

The Japanese CP leader said:

1,000 American Women Demonstrate in Front of the White House

A BOY 1,000 American women staged on March 26, a demonstration in front of the White House and marched to the Capitol with slogans urging immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam and cessation of the war in Viet Nam. Reports from the United States said:

The demonstration was held by the "Women Strike for Peace." Many of them dressed in mourning carried black balloons and placards

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

"100 Million Francs for Viet Nam" - A Lofty Manifestation of International Proletarianism

THE "100 million francs for Viet Nam" movement launched in France since March 23, 1969 by the National Committee to Action to Support the Vietnamese People until Victory" headed by comrade Waldeck Rochet, Secretary General of the French Communist Party, has ended in success. Within two months only, the French people contributed nearly 103 million francs, exceeding the target figure by nearly 3 million francs.

The movement is a powerful demonstration of the long standing militant friendship between the peoples of both countries. In the gloomy days under the shadow of French colonialism, the national liberation movement of the Vietnamese people always enjoyed wholehearted support and assistance from the French Communist Party, workers and toiling people to support their struggle in the fight against the aggressors.

With the backing of the world's peoples, and of the French people, our people have won a great victory over French colonialism, the national liberation movement of the Vietnamese people always enjoyed wholehearted support and assistance from the French Communist Party, workers and toiling people to support their struggle in the fight against the aggressors.

On this occasion, the Vietnamese people express their sincere gratitude to the "National Committee to Support the Vietnamese People until Victory" and the French Communist Party as well as to the French workers, intellectuals and all democratic progressive people and peace fighters.

Since the U.S. aggression against our country, the

Thanks To Our European Friends

OUR people's struggle against U.S. imperialism and for independence and peace is receiving a stronger and stronger support from progressives all over the world. European friends, in particular, have taken a stand against the American imperialists whose crimes on our soil have shocked their consciences. The European people have dealt deadly blows at the U.S. imperialists. At the same time their resistance is vigorously encouraging the anti-imperialist struggle of the world's peoples."

The participants approved a statement calling on the Japanese people to further step up their action against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam, demand that the U.S. dismantle all its military bases in Japan, and oppose the production and shipment of U.S. weapons.

Such an action, the statement continued, is one of international solidarity taken in coordination with the anti-imperialist struggle of the people of all countries with the Vietnamese people in the van.

Meetings and demonstrations for the same purpose were staged in Osaka, Yokohama, Fukuoka and other cities etc....

an immediate end to the Viet Nam war, troop pull-out;

According to U.S. reports published in "Lyons' Support Viet Nam Committee" To the Vietnamese students and colleagues with deep admiration and friendship", etc...

Get out of Viet Nam!"

Many other groups of women coming from various states joined in the demonstration.

A car drove from Washington to New York with this bold-type inscription on the bumper: "My son was killed in Viet Nam. Who killed him?"

The demonstrators handed in at the White House a letter to Nixon pressing for

even in the thick of the fight. The history of the Vietnamese people, scientist A. Grothendieck, in a report to the Mathematics Department of the Faculty of Sciences in Paris, has affirmed, "Our Vietnamese friends are convinced that the only truly essential asset of a country lies in the quality of its citizens who can be uniquely matchless effort in history, they succeed in raising in the teeth of everything, the culture, the principles, the conscience of our compatriots which continue flowing in every day, embodies their fraternity and militant solidarity which give our people a strong will. Their memory will last long in the pages of all those books as well as in the minds of those who read them. Whenever we receive books from the 'Collectif Interuniversitaire d'Action pour la Paix au Viet Nam' (Joint University Union for Peace in Viet Nam) for our library, we have sent us thousands of valuable scientific and technical books.

Part of this gift was exhibited in the Central Science Library in September last. Professors, engineers, researchers, assistants, etc., came in great numbers to take a look at the display. There were also bear inscriptions, ex libris, authors' autographs which were moving testimonies of fraternality such as "tribute of admiration to the fighting Vietnamese people"; "Fraternal greetings from the Lyons' Support Viet Nam Committee"; "To the Vietnamese students and colleagues with deep admiration and friendship", etc...

NGUY NHU KONTUM
Rector
of Hanoi University

Viet Nam COURIER

Editor's Note. — Nguyen Van Hoa alias Theo, 15, has twice been awarded as "Excellent Anti-U.S. Fighter". He and his fellow fighters have been responsible for 31 enemy casualties. Hoa alone has killed 100 enemy troops, destroyed one sub-machine gun and captured two sub-machine guns.

The following story tells of one of the first battles of this boy in Thua Thien province.

FROM a bush Theo emerged and waved a signal. Two men sprang out from the other side of the road sprang out and dashed forward.

When the two had caught up with him, Theo said a kind word to them, pointing his finger to the post, said volably: "That's the last post on this road. Over there is hamlet X." With a sigh of his heart he showed a fir-off bamboo grove.

Wagging a bamboo twig, he continued, smiling, "You're safe now. Good bye!"

Thereupon Theo hurried home by the same road, whistling all the way a favorite tune. As he approached the gate, he sensed something had happened during his absence. He stopped in the yard and looked round, calling for "Vang," his dog, dog-like. Normally, the dog would run out to greet him with its bow-wow, wagging its short tail. Theo stood in anxious anticipation, then called out: "Vang! Vang! Vang!" But there was no response. Theo's mother ran out from behind the house. She looked at the boy in silent sympathy then said, "This morning, shortly after you went, some tanks showed up here. After a vain search, they took Vang away. I tried to wrest it back. They hit me in the face."

Looking up at his mother, Theo thought he could still see the mark of the enemy's hand on her face. She hurriedly said, "The shells fell most thickly in search for duds. He found three of them, carried them home and hid them in the garden. At noon-time on the following day he secretly went to the cache and set to defuse the shells. And he succeeded after painstaking efforts."

Knowing his intention, Sa, a guerrilla in the village, asked Theo to show him the shells and the fuses so he might give some guidance. The boy reluctantly refused. "Never shall I let them into my project. They will make me a laughing-stock if the mine fails to go off," Theo told himself.

Sizing the first opportunity which offered, while he was assisting to recruit some militants to the liberated zone, Theo dropped in at an ammunition workshop where he coaxed out of Uncle Nam

PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM

(Continued from page 2)

will make up its mind to withdraw totally and unconditionally U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

There is for the U.S. govern-

ment only one honourable way out of its present Viet Nam predicament. Mr. Nuan Thuy and Mr. Tron Buu Kiem declared, that is to give up its neo-colonialist policy of aggression. A sound solution to the Viet Nam problem is to be found in the DRVN four points and NFL five points. As the U.S. government has committed its troops to an aggression against Viet Nam it must bring them home. Such a step is a legitimate demand not only of the Vietnamese people, but also

of the world peoples, especially of American men and women who do not like to see their husbands and sons die a useless death in this unjust war.

The US and puppet delega-

tions reiterated their old stand against their will, mostly catholics were of Se Daung nationality. They protested against such a peremptory measure and demanded to be sent back to their native village. In the repressive bombardment, the enemy killed 350 people, including Father Leonid, one of the two French parish priests.

All these malicious accusa-

tions and signs of bad faith were denounced then and there by the representation of the DRVN and NFL delegations.

After the massacre, Ameri-

nian and puppet soldiers broke into Cong Ho Rinh to loot its occupants knowing that they had just had a narrow escape. The second jeep came up speeding. One, two, three, four Yanks. A puppet driver. Two of the Americans wore large-framed spectacles, sprawling on the seats, with cigarettes between their fingers. They were the very officers who had ordered the burning of Aunt Ba's home, who had broken into Theo's house, slapped his mother on the face and rubbed his hand on his thoughts revolved in his mind as the jeep drew up. It was barely a few yards from the bodytrap. Closing his eyes, Theo connected the two ends of the wire and a sharp crackle flared through his mind. His elders had told him that one could not kill many Yanks with a mine which would kill a mine which would kill three brand new fuses which would fit into his shell. Still, there were many more things which Theo could not get such as a piece of electric wire and a pair of pliers. He managed to hold the wire with both hands. He missed a lot of the fuse and the hand grenade exploded. He got it from Be, a half-brother friend of the same guerrilla group as him. He had once seen Be with a lot of it. The hardest thing was to kill the Yanks. He had to bring the carbines and hand grenades. He must have a mine, yes, a mine which would kill the Yanks in a pile of the pillows. He felt his hair was raised and his eyes were burning as if the mine had been burning there. Then said his hand grenade exploded. The hand grenade crackled. The noise brought him back to full consciousness. He opened his eyes. The jeep had had tank tracks, was cutting bullet holes all around. He could tell the shell burst of submachineguns from San and Be's return fire. He sprung to his feet. From the doorway, a companion Yank was firing long volleys at San. This was hot with anger. Raising the M-16 on his shoulder, he took aim and fired. 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ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

MILITARY OPERATIONS

Saigon area, chiefly Dau Tieng and Tay Ninh sectors, Da Nang area, the Western High Plateaux, Quang Tri and Thua Thien, the two northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam, last week were given prominence in Giai Phong Press Agency.

SAIGON REGION

Operation Atlas Wedge at Dau Tieng: 200 GLs put out of action; 210 vehicles, 30 heavy guns and mortars destroyed and 12 aircraft burnt.

Tay Ninh province: 700 adverse casualties recorded, 16 choppers downed, 30 vehicles and 10 ordnance pieces destroyed in 11 days.

Xuan Loc sector, northeast of Saigon: 11 enemy companies wiped out.

In Dau Tieng sector, "ditch-and-rubber plantation, 600 men and 100 vehicles, an operation code-named *Atlas Wedge* was launched in the middle of March by 1 battalion of U.S. Infantry, 1 regiment of 1st Air Mobile Division, and Armoured Regiment 11. The PLAF struck first and on March 17 it besieged the enemy in Xuan Loc. On March 18, 1 GL put out of action, 45 vehicles, mostly tanks and armoured cars, destroyed and 4 helicopters downed.

The attacks went on on March 19 and 20, inflicting on the enemy hundreds of killed and the loss of many armoured cars. A small group of PLAF men, in an ambush on March 20, wiped out a U.S. motorized column by destroying 16 vehicles.

On March 21, the GLs retreated, but driven by the patriotic forces who put out of action a company and destroyed 7 tanks in the plantation. Operation *Atlas Wedge* ended in a fiasco.

Keeping up their actions the PLAF on March 26 or 27 ran a camp of Brigade 2, First Air Mobile Division, about twenty kilometers north of Dau Tieng, killing or wounding 100 GLs and burning 9 heavy mortars. On March 27 an armoured car park some 15 km southeast of Dau Tieng was stormed: 50 vehicles were destroyed and 2 big capture burnt.

Then followed on March 17-23 Operation *Atlas Wedge*, the Yankees lost over 200 men, 210 vehicles (mostly armoured vehicles) and 30 artillery pieces, 12 choppers and 100 GLs.

Northwest of Dau Tieng, in Tay Ninh province, many successes were recorded by the PLAF between March 20 and 30. On March 22, southwest of Dau Tieng, a regiment, about one hundred paratroopers were killed or wounded and a chopper knocked down. On March 25, in an attack by regional artillery pieces, 12 choppers and 250 men.

At Tra Cao (55 km northwest of Saigon) where a month ago 850 GLs had been put out of action in two attacks by the PLAF, on March 25, 40 hours after the puppet company was wiped out on March 26 and a Company badly mauled.

Two days later, on March 28 on the Tay Ninh - Dan Ting road, the Yankees lost in two hours 40 vehicles (most of them armoured cars and tanks) and took many casualties.

On March 29, 20km north of Tay Ninh town, a company of Regiment 5, First Air Mobile Division was wiped out and on March 30, two puppet paratroopers battalions under fire south of the town: 300 adverse casualties (a company wiped out) and 12 cannons destroyed.

PLAF AA batteries proved most effective in the provocation by bombing 15 aircraft on March 20 and 21.

Northeast of Saigon, in a sector north of Xuan Loc, not far from Dong Nai river, the puppet troops suffered heavy losses. Between March 18 and 26, 8 companies wiped out, 32 vehicles destroyed and 12 choppers downed.

Northwest of Saigon, in Cu Chi district, between March 14 and 22, the PLAF put out of action 100 GLs, put out 5 American companies, destroyed 40 tanks and armoured cars and shot down 4 choppers. Further south, on March 17, Tay Ninh had about one hundred men killed or wounded in a battle near Duc Hoa.

Southwest, Binh Due base of U.S. infantry Division 9 was pounded by PLAF artillery on March 26; 160 GLs put out of action, 3 million litres of fuel burned, a shell dump destroyed.

In Saigon, in the 5th district, on March 30, a police station was blown up, 4 military vehicles destroyed, many policemen killed or wounded. Two days earlier, the HQ of a puppet para-military organization in the 3rd district was dynamited.

CENTRAL TRUNG BO

2,400 enemy casualties south of Da Nang and in Quang Ngai province and 2,100 others (1,100 GLs) in 3 provinces in the Western High Plateau.

Twenty kilometres south of Da Nang, the PLAF on March 25, 26 or 27 on a moonlit night took on the Yankees on March 19-20 after taking a heavy toll from

the garrison and repelling repeated enemy counter-attacks. In that sector from 19 to 21, 600 GLs, South Korean and Saigon puppet troops were wiped out on March 26 and a Company badly mauled.

Further south, 60 km from Da Nang, around Tien Phuoc sub-sector CP invested by the PLAF, from March 19 to 21, the enemy had 280 GLs (200, GLs) killed or wounded, 7 choppers downed and 2 armoured carriers destroyed.

In Quang Ngai province, from March 19 to 25, the PLAF assaulted a locality near the provincial capital, 122 km southwest of Da Nang. The targets hit

included the airfields and a base of Brigade 4, American Division; 350 GLs put out of action and a fuel depot burnt.

In other onsets around Quang Ngai and 4 districts of the province, from March 18 to 21, the enemy suffered 600 casualties and 4 choppers downed.

In the Western High Plateau, in Kontum, Pleiku and Darlac provinces, between March 20 and 31, the PLAF mounted an attack in which they put out of action 2,082 enemy soldiers (1,411 GLs), destroyed 202 military vehicles (60 tanks and armoured carriers, 100 pieces of ordnance pieces; 6 American companies and 2 puppet companies were wiped out, 2 U.S. motorized infantry companies decimated.

QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN

800 enemy troops (630 GLs) put out of action in

a week.

South of the DMZ at the 17th parallel, between March 26 and 30 the PLAF wiped out 380 enemy troops, downed 6 choppers and destroyed 23 GLs and armoured cars at Con Lam and Tan Lam. In three engagements on March 31 on Hill 333.6 km north of Tan Lam, 300 GLs casualties were listed and 2 choppers lost.

Southeast of Hue, Phu Bai airfield on March 26, 200 GLs and 30 military vehicles (10 tanks and armoured carriers, 10 pieces of ordnance pieces) were destroyed and 100 GLs put out of action.

The enemy forces operating in the mountain regions of Quang Tri and Thua Thien continued to be harassed and 800 men (634 GLs) killed, wounded or captured, 62 vehicles and 10 cannons destroyed, 22 choppers downed between March 23 and 29.



Quang Tri province liberation fighters attacking the enemy

SAIGON:

WORKERS PERSECUTED

THE Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet clique illegally brought to trial on March 23 in workers of the CADOTEX textile factory in Saigon, before the 3rd Corps Area Field Military Court, GPA reported.

The source said that 14 of those arrested received from 1 to 15 month prison terms to 7 years hard labour each, under false charges of "communist activities".

Of those sentenced to hard labour, Daang Sin got 7 years and Luong Do Thanh Chu, Han and Vo Van Tat, Chu Van Tac, like arbitrary sentences passed recently on Buddhist Superior Thich Thien

Minh and eight Buddhist students, the unjustifiable condemnation of those 17 workers has stirred up a wave of

anger among the South Vietnamese people, especially those in the towns, GPA noted.

Dockers Win Claims

DOKEERS striking against Da Nang port at the U.S. military pier No.125 in Da Nang have won initial success, GPA said.

The strike began early last week when the U.S. colonel in charge sought to reduce working time of hour-wage workers and lay off redundant workers.

As a result of the dockers' energetic action, the port authorities had to agree to a maximum full-pay 11-hour workday including time for lunch and washing, the source added.